



**State Board of Education Ceremonial Resolution
Black History Month & Black Lives Matter at School
CR22-3**

WHEREAS, Black History Month in the year 2022 spans from February 1st to February 28th;

WHEREAS, Black History Month originated in February 1926 with the creation of “Negro History Week” by Black scholar Carter G. Woodson to ensure that students had exposure to Black history and was then formally established by President Gerald Ford as a month-long celebration in 1976;

WHEREAS, each year Black History Month is assigned a different theme, with 2022’s theme being *Black Health and Wellness*;

WHEREAS, Black History Month highlights the great accomplishments of Black people throughout history who have been integral and essential to our world and draw greater public attention to the complexity and richness of Black history that is far too often underrepresented in the stories of our society;

WHEREAS, Black History Month increases awareness of past and current issues such as slavery, discrimination, anti-Black violence, and racism, that have and continue to face Black communities;

WHEREAS, Black History Month upholds the idea that Black people have an impactful role in promoting a fair and just society for all;

WHEREAS, Black History Month elevates examples of Black excellence in this new generation of young people;

WHEREAS, according to enrollment data from both the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB), a majority of D.C.’s student population identifies as Black;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School coalition, founded in 2016, has worked to ensure the implementation of restorative justice discipline practices in schools, the promotion of Black history and culture in school curricula, and the increased hiring of Black teachers and staff; and

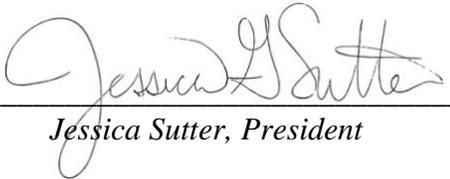
WHEREAS, from January 31st to February 4th, Teaching for Change’s D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice participated in the Fifth Annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, calling for a set of national demands that focus on improving the school experience for students of color.





NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education recognizes and celebrates February as Black History Month, appreciates the work of Black Lives Matter at School, and acknowledges this organization’s importance to D.C.’s students; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, that the State Board is committed to fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment for Black students and families in our schools and in our community and will pursue that commitment through advocating for policies that attack the roots of systemic inequality, building education standards that better represent the experiences of Black students, and elevating the voices of the Black community in education.

Date Adopted: 2/16/22 Signed: 
Jessica Sutter, President

